

## REMARKS

### INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, the abstract and claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 2-6, 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 7 are pending and under consideration.

### AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

The abstract has been amended to improve the form of the abstract.

### CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohtsuki (US 6,929,331) (hereinafter "Ohtsuki") in view of Wada et al. (US 2003/0190492) (hereinafter "Wada").

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohtsuki in view of Wada and Di Ponio (US 6,357,557) (hereinafter "Di Ponio").

#### Claims 1-6

Amended claim 1 recites: "...a surface of the stationary member that contacts the knuckle and an outer peripheral surface of the vehicle body fitting flange are provided with an electrocorrosion preventive coating..." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claims 2-6 and further in the specification on page 10, lines 18-22.

The Office Action relies on a combination of Ohtsuki and Wada to reject the features of claim 1 as amended. In particular, the Office Action relies on Ohtsuki to show the electrocorrosion preventive coating. However, in Ohtsuki, the electrically insulating layer 17 is provided **only** at a contact surface area between an outer member 1 and a knuckle 14. By contrast, the electrocorrosion preventive coating of claim 1 covers not only the contact surface area but also an outer peripheral surface of a vehicle body fitting flange (for exemplary purposes, see element 1a in figure 2 of the present application). Though the outer peripheral surface of the vehicle body fitting flange does not directly contact the knuckle, the outer peripheral surface may indirectly contact the knuckle via water intervening therebetween, and as a result, electric corrosion can be generated on the outer peripheral surface. According to amended claim 1, since the electrocorrosion preventive coating covers the outer peripheral surface, the knuckle which is made of aluminum alloy can be prevented from melting due to electric corrosion.

Regarding Wada, Wada only discusses that a metal substrate 10 such as a steel member has a zinc-based plating layer 12 provided thereon, and a chromate film 14 is provided atop the plating layer 12. Wada does not discuss that an outer peripheral surface of the vehicle body fitting flange are provided with an electrocorrosion preventive coating.

Claims 2-6 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

**Claims 7-9**

Amended claim 7 recites: "...wherein one of the outer member and the inner member, which serves as a rotatable member, has a wheel mounting flange for supporting a rim of the vehicle wheel through a brake rotor made of an aluminum alloy, an electrocorrosion preventive coating being provided on a surface of the flange that is held in contact with the brake rotor and on an outer peripheral surface of the wheel mounting flange..." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claims 8 and 9, and on page 11, lines 3-7 of the specification of the present application.

Claims 7-9 were rejected based on a combination of Ohtsuki, Wada and Di Ponio. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the electrically insulating layer 17 of Ohtsuki is not provided on a surface of a wheel mounting flange 2a that is held in contact with a brake rotor. Regarding Wada, Wada discusses the provision of a corrosion resistant member on calipers for disc brakes (see Wada, paragraph [0034]), but does not suggest to cover the outer peripheral surface of the wheel mounting flange with the corrosion resistant member.

Regarding Di Ponio, which was relied on to show an aluminum alloy rotor, Di Ponio does not discuss an electrocorrosion preventive coating at all.

Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

**CONCLUSION**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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